

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7500

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY, GR

SUBJECT: TURKISH MEDIA REACTION TO DENKTAS-CLERIDES MEETING

1. THE TURKISH MEDIA HAS GIVEN LIGHT COVERAGE TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT WEDNESDAY IN NICOSIA THAT INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS BEGINNING JANUARY 14 WILL INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF THE POWERS OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN A FEDERATED STATE IN CYPRUS.

2. IN THURSDAY MORNING EDITIONS, ALTHOUGH SOME ANKARA AND ISTANBUL PAPERS PLAYED THE STORY ON FRONT PAGES, NO MAJOR PAPER GAVE IT BANNER HEADLINE TREATMENT. HURRIYET, TURKEY'S LARGEST DAILY, MISSED THE STORY ENTIRELY THURSDAY AND PICKED IT UP ONLY IN FRIDAY'S EDITION, WHERE IT WAS GIVEN BRIEF NOTICE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE FRONT PAGE.

TURKISH STATE RADIO AND TELEVISION (TRT) ALSO GAVE THE RESULTS OF THE CLERIDES-DENKTAS MEETING ONLY MODERATE COVERAGE. IN WEDNESDAY NIGHT'S MAIN EVENING TELEVISION NEWS BROADCAST, THE STORY WAS NOT USED AS A LEAD ITEM, BUT NOTED BRIEFLY MID-WAY THROUGH THE PROGRAM.

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REPORTS OF THE WEDNESDAY MEETING WERE STRAIGHT FORWARD AND FOCUSSED MAINLY ON DENKTAS STATEMENT THAT IT HAD CLEARED THE WAY FOR THE OPENING OF POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE ISLAND.

3. IN FRIDAY EDITIONS, ONLY CUMHURIYET DEVELOPED A FOLLOW-UP STORY. IT PLAYED AN INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MELIH ESENBEL (SEE SEPTTEL) AT THE TOP OF PAGE ONE.

3. IN THE ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT NOTED SO FAR, HURRIYET FRIDAY DECLARED THAT THE RESULTS OF WEDNESDAY'S MEETING INDICATE THAT ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS HAS NOW FACED THE FACTS AND ACCEPTED A FEDERATIE GOVERNMENT FOR THE ISLAND. THE EDITORIAL SAID TURKEY IS DETERMINED TO RETAIN HER STATUS AS A GUARANTOR OF THE CYPRUS CONSTITUTION AND THUS A FIVE-PARTY CONFERENCE WILL HAVE TO BE CALLED TO RATIFY ANY AGREEMENTS REACHED IN THE INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS.
MACOMBER

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